

## Claims

1. Tongs comprising a four link mechanism (12, 20, 22, 30) wherein the links are pivotally connected together by means of parallel pivot joints (23', 24', 31', 32').  
 5 wherein the link mechanism includes two mutually connected links (20, 30) which define therebetween an angle that approaches 180° at the closing end position of the tongs, and wherein the length of one (30) of said two links is adjustable, **characterised in that** the length adjustable link (30) includes two parts that are moveable in the longitudinal direction of the link, wherein the first (36) of said parts  
 10 includes a slot (51) for guiding a pivot shaft (31) carried by said second part (70) and belonging to the pivot joint of the adjustable link (30), and wherein the shaft (31) carries a rounded body (50) that has mutually discrete first formations disposed around its periphery, said formations being located at mutually different distances from the shaft (31) about which the second part (70) is rotatable; and in that the first  
 15 part (36) includes on the longitudinal axis of the length adjustable link (30) a second formation (38) that is generally complimentary to the first formations (33) for engagement with one of said formations.
2. Tongs according to Claim 1 **characterised in that** peripherally adjacent first  
 20 formations (33) have mutually the same angular distance around the pivot axis of the second part (70); and in that the distance of the first formations to the pivot axis of said first part is selectable.
3. Tongs according to Claim 2 **characterised in that** the first formations are disposed  
 25 around a spiral path that is centred on the pivot axis of the second part (70).
4. Tongs according to any one of Claims 1 - 3 **characterised in that** the first  
 formations (33) and the second formation (38) have generally the form of mutually co-acting arcs of a circle.
5. Tongs according to any one of Claims 1 - 4 **characterised in that** body (50) carried  
 30 by said second part (70) has a side surface (52) that rests on an abutment surface (57) on said first part; and in that the two pivot axes of the adjustable link are mutually parallel.

- 5      Tongs according to one of Claims 1 - 5 **characterised in that** the first part (36) of the adjustable link carries a cam (33a) that forms part of a latching mechanism (33a, 34).